Exemption from Central Government Pension Scheme

*117 SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of undertakings which have asked for exemption from the Central Government Pension Scheme;

(b) the names of the undertakings who have done so;

(c) whether these undertakings have prepared alternate schemes; and

(d) the reasons for not granting exemption to these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (b) As per the procedure prescribed under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 (EPS) three applications for grant of exemption from the EPS in respect of M/s Indian Oil Corporation, M/s Indian Petro Chemical Corporation Ltd. & M/s TELCO Ltd. have been forwarded by the EPF Organisation to the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As the provision of the Pension Schemes formulated by the applicant establishments are not in accordance with the provisions of the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995, it has not been found possible to grant them exemption.

बाल भिखारियों का पुनर्वास

*118 श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बाल कल्याण बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष के कथनानुसार बाल भिखारियों के पुनर्वास कार्य को गंभीरतापूर्वक नहीं किया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार देश में बाल भिखारियों के पुनर्वास हेतु यथाशीघ्र कोई योजना तैयार करेगी?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) जी, नहीं। यह सच है कि बाल कल्याण बोर्ड, दिल्ली ने शहर में बाल भिखारियों की स्थिति पर चिन्ता व्यक्त की है।

(ख) भिक्षुओं उनमें से बाल भिखारियों सहित का पुनर्वास कार्य राज्य सरकारों द्वारा उनके अपने-अपने कार्यक्रमों और विधानों के अंतर्गत किया जाता है। सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की बेसहारा बच्चों, उपेक्षित तथा बाल अपराधियों के लिए पहले ही योजनाएं है, जिनमें बाल भिखारी भी शामिल हैं। इन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत राज्य सरकारों तथा गैर-सरकारी संगठनों को सहायता दी जा रही है।

Minority Education Cell

*119. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Minorities tried to initiate a move to set up a minority education cell, as reported in the news-item "Minorities panel against curriculum change" published in the Asian Age, dated the 22nd October, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Human Resource Development opposed this move on the plea that Article 30 was sub-judice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Minorities has set up a Minority Education Cell on 23.7.98.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development did not oppose the setting up of the Minority Education Cell but drew attention to the fact that the matter as to who constitutes

'minority' is pending before the Supreme Court of India and this aspect may be kept in view while taking and action in the matter. The National Commission for Minorities was advised accordingly.

National Commission for Old People

*120. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering declaration of the National policy on old people in this International Year of the Old;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether setting up of a National Commission for old people is also being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A National Policy for Older Person is under consideration of the Government. The policy will seek to ensure the well being of older persons by attending to their financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other development needs. However the setting up of a National Commission for old people is not under consideration of the Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Export of Food Items

776. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and quantity of food items exported during the last three years, item-wise separately; and

(b) the effect on the availability and price front in internal market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) A Statement is ANNEXED [*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No. 21]

(b) The policy of the Government to permit exports of food products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of food products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making food exports increasingly viable.

Vegetable Shipments from India

777. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI C. O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of onions make up 90 per cent of India's vegetable shipments and bring in over Rs. 300 crores annually;

(b) the total production of onion during last three years till August, 1998;

(c) the demand and supply of onion in the country in the last three years; and

(d) the amount and earnings from the exports during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir. During 1997-98, exports of onion accounted for about 52 percent of vegetables exported from India in value terms.

(b) & (c) The total production of onion in India during the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under:

Qty.: Million tonnes

Year	Production
1995-96	4.08 (estimated)
1996-97	4.43 (estimated)